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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Nobuaki ABE

Confirmation No.: 4779

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Group Art Unit: 2623

Appl. No. : 09/488,677

Examiner: Jingge Wu

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NUMBER INCREASING APPARATUS

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on January 14, 2004, in which the three month shortened statutory period for responding thereto runs to April 14, 2004, reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following:

Remarks begin on page 2 of this paper.